REMARKS

Claims 4 and 18-19 have been canceled. Claims 1-3 are allowed. Claims 5-16 have been amended to depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 2.

Claim 17 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but it was noted "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Office Action, at 11. Claim 17 has been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and all intervening claims. Claim 17 is therefore submitted to be allowable.

Thus, the present amendment puts the application in condition for allowance and presents no new matter that would necessitate further search by the Examiner. Accordingly, entry of the amendment, withdrawal of all outstanding rejections and issuance of the application are requested.

No fee is believed to be due for this Amendment. Should any fees be required, please charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 04-1073.

Dated: June 26, 2006

Respectfully ~~submitted~~,

By _____

Thomas J. D'Amico
Registration No.: 28,371
Megan S. Woodworth
Registration No.: 53,655
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN & OSHINSKY LLP
2101 L Street NW
Washington, DC 20037-1526
(202) 785-9700
Attorneys for Applicants